

Papago Gateway Center Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
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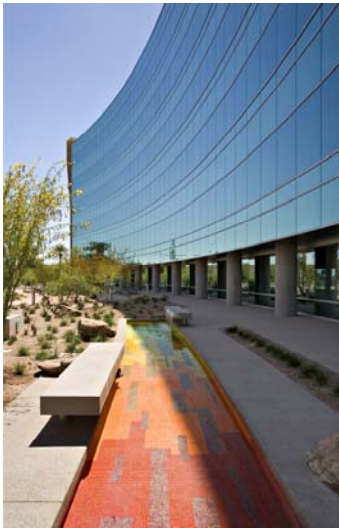


Photo: Craig Smith

Artwork

Translation

Development

Papago Gateway Center

Address

350 W. Washington St.

Arist

Rebecca Ross

Completion

2008

Materials

Concrete, steel, LED lighting, glass tile, water

Description: "Translation" is a multiple-part artwork consisting of four water features incorporating various levels and spanning a total length of 170 feet. Through a series of brilliant colors, the project visually connects two exterior lobby spaces and a central courtyard. Its elements work together to suggest change, discovery and the fluid nature of the human thought process. The artwork incorporates 16 gradations of multi-hued Italian glass tile in a sectionalized, linear mosaic design, ranging from cool tones on the east end of the project to warm tones on the west end.

The artist, Rebecca Ross, considered the building's intended use for research and office space, along with SmithGroup's striking building and courtyard design, when developing the project concept. She studied the look of digital graphs, chads and waterways while focusing on the way ideas develop and change. Ross arranged the glass tile in an order that reflects the way colors progress along the color wheel, visually suggesting the minute changes that can lead to new ideas—one shade or one discovery at a time.

The visual sense of change can be experienced by the public subtly on ground level or dramatically from above. Low-voltage LED lighting in the pools enables the project to have a subtle nighttime presence, extending the concept of change and allowing for discovery by evening users.

To further expand and integrate the art into this development, the artist was commissioned to incorporate photography featuring botanical specimens from the surrounding area into artistically-enhanced project signage throughout the parking structure and building. Images of desert plants reproduced on aluminum are dyed with brilliant hues that connect to the colors in the water features and work as wayfinding elements throughout the center in a successful articulation of art and function.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.

Artist biography: Rebecca Ross is an experienced, professional Arizona artist who has completed public art projects for the cities of Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale, Glendale and Phoenix. Rebecca's work is represented in public and private collections nationally and abroad including the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, Mayo Clinic-Scottsdale, Museum of Fine Arts-Houston and many others.

Artist statement: "I'm interested in the ways that art can create a distinct and unique sense of place. In this project, I've connected the artwork to the surrounding Sonoran desert, creating moments of discovery such as finding a brilliant pool of water in the desert or a jewel of color over the image of an agave. These outdoor visual discoveries work as a metaphor to the discoveries of new ideas happening inside the building."